

Message Text

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11

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CCO-00 AID-20 OCL-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 /048 W

----- 051546

R 100331Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5313

SECDEF WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

INFO JCS WASHDC

CSA WASHDC

CINCPAC

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

COMUSMACTHAI

DCA THAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5561

SECSTATE ALSO FOR USAID

MANILA FOR ATO AND RCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, LA

SUBJECT: USG COMMUNICATION FACILITY AT PAKSE

REF: VIENTIANE 1541 (NOTAL)

1. IN OUR PLANNING FOR FUTURE USG COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN LAOS (REFTEL), WE HAD RECOMMENDED RETAINING INDEFINITELY THE DOD TELEPHONE/TELETYPE (TRC-90) FACILITY AT PAKSE.

2. WE HAVE SINCE RECONSIDERED THIS RECOMMENDATION IN LIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS. AT PRESENT, U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL IN PAKSE COMPRISE BOTH U.S. MILITARY
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(JCS PROJECT 404) AND USAID EMPLOYEES. SO LONG AS U.S.

MILITARY PERSONNEL REMAIN IN PAKSE, WE BELIEVE THE TRC-90 SHOULD ALSO REMAIN TO PROVIDE THE CAPABILITIES OUTLINED REFTEL. HOWEVER, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ALL U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL EVENTUALLY DEPART FROM MR-IV AS U.S. MILITARY WITHDRAWALS FROM LAOS ARE MADE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAO AGREEMENTS. THEREAFTER, THE ONLY U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL IN PAKSE WILL BE NINE USAID EMPLOYEES PLUS THEIR DEPENDENTS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT MISSION COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS WARRANT CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE TRC-90 AT PAKSE OR JUSTIFY THE ESTIMATED COST OF \$62 THOUSAND FOR SUCH CONTINUED OPERATION. THE TRC-90 IS NOT A FIXED INSTALLATION AND, SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE, COULD BE REINSTALLED WITH MINIMAL DELAY.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, WE PROPOSE TO RETAIN THE TRC-90 FACILITY AS LONG AS U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL REMAIN T PAKSE, BUT TO REMOVE IT WHEN THOSE PERSONNEL DEPART. MISSION COMMUNICATIONS WITH PAKSE WOULD THEY RELY ENTIRELY ON THE NON-SECURE USAID VOICE/RADIO/TELETYPE SINGLE SIDE BAND SYSTEM, WHICH(ALTHOUGH NOT AT ALL TIMES DEPENDABLE) WE BELIEVE WILL ADEQUATELY SERVE THE MISSION'S NEEDS UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING TIMING WILL, AS THEY BECOME KNOWN, BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH DOD CHANNELS.
DEAN
UNQUOTE.

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NNN

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